

SPENNYMOOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR 1970

TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING OFFICER

**THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR THE YEAR
1970**

**DURHAM :
G. BAILES & SONS LIMITED**

1971

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SPENNYMOOR

Chairman of the Council 1970-71 :

COUNCILLOR E. BRAUER

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR K. JACKSON

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR K. D. WOOD

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR E. BRAUER

Chairman of the Housing Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. C. ARMSTRONG

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. W. RUTTER

Councillors

T. ADAMS, J. C. ARMSTRONG, DR. E. BRAUER, MRS. M. CAMPBELL, T. W. CHATTERTON, C. DAILEY, MISS O. DOBSON, A. FRANKS, K. JACKSON, F. A. KENMIR, G. K. KERWOOD, J. KITSON, R. D. LONG, J. A. MURRAY, MRS. R. ORTON, J. T. RICHARDSON, V. ROBSON, J. W. RUTTER, J. G. STOREY, J. R. TAYLOR, DR. K. D. WOOD.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health—R. GORDON DRUMMOND, D.L., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Also Medical Officer of Health, City of Durham, Durham Rural District and Urban District of Brandon & Byshottles. Assistant County Medical Officer, County Durham.

Chief Public Health Inspector—N. ROBINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector, Smoke Inspector and Cleansing Officer.

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector—B. G. COLLINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector and Smoke Inspector.

Authorised Meat Inspector—G. Allen, A.M.R.S.H.

Clerk: K. Wallace.

Clerk/Typist: Miss J. Spence (Appointed 10/8/70)

Pests Officer: R. Fairhurst. (Appointed 1/7/70)

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| Number of Properties in the District | 40 |

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
SPENNYMOOR.

Telephone : Spennymoor 2304.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the reports of my predecessor Dr. R. G. Drummond and of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. Robinson.

The number of births has risen during the year and the stillbirth rate fallen. One more death of children under one year occurred and neo-natal, early neo-natal and perinatal mortality rates are down. The adjusted death rate is higher than the rate for the previous year; Heart Disease, Cerebrovascular Disease, Bronchitis and Lung Cancer take the biggest toll of lives with Accidents other than by motor vehicles and Other Cancers taking the following high places and as expected the higher death rates are in the population over 55 years of age.

The immunisation programme continues but more parents could take advantage of the vaccines offered. There is a rise in the number of children affected by Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough. It is most gratifying to know no-one contracted any of the food poisoning organisms or dysentery and it is hoped that this will continue.

Your obedient servant,

A. WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1970

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Live Births

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 284 |
| Rate per 1,000 population (crude rate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15.1 |
| Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Stillbirths

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Total Live and Still Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 285 |
| Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Infant Mortality Rates

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Deaths

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 245 |
| Male | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 128 |
| Female | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 117 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (crude) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13.1 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,543 |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Population (Registrar General's Estimate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18,760 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Estimated number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,224 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Rateable Value (1st April, 1970) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £602,050 |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £2,550 |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.01 |
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.21 |

Section A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—7,543 acres. The District consists of six wards; it borders with the Urban Districts of Bishop Auckland and Crook and Willington and the Rural Districts of Durham and Sedgefield.

The acreages of the Wards are as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,134 |
| Low Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | ... | 329 |
| Middlestone Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,215 |
| Merrington Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,822 |
| Byers Green Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,130 |
| Tudhoe Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,913 |

Industries—Light Engineering, Coal Mining and Agriculture are the main industries.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 18,760, an increase of 360 on the figure for 1969.

The approximate populations of the various Wards in the district have been assessed as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | ... | 4,004 |
| Low Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | ... | 2,648 |
| Middlestone Ward | ... | ... | ... | 3,366 |
| Merrington Ward | ... | ... | ... | 1,115 |
| Byers Green Ward | ... | ... | ... | 896 |
| Tudhoe Ward | ... | ... | ... | 6,731 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 18,760 |
| | | | | <hr/> |

Inhabited Houses—The estimated number of inhabited houses in the district is 6,224.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors—These figures are a means of adjusting the rates for births and deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales as a whole, in so far as distribution of age and sex is concerned. The adjusted rates are those to be compared with the rates for England and Wales and the similarly adjusted rates for other areas. The Comparability Factors are as follows:—Births 1.01; Deaths 1.21.

Births—During the year there were registered 154 male births and 130 female births. Of this total of 284, 16 were illegitimate. There were 53 more births than in 1969. The birth rate (adjusted) was 15.3 as compared with 12.7 for 1969.

Table I shows the Birth Rate in comparison with those for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of Durham over the past ten years.

Deaths—245 deaths were registered during the year, 128 males and 117 females.

The Death Rate (adjusted) of 15.9 is higher than the adjusted rate for last year (14.6). Table I shows a comparison with the rates for County Durham and for England and Wales.

Table III shows the individual causes of death.

Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under one year of age) — Six children died before reaching one year of age (as did five last year), the infant mortality rate being 25.4.

The rate for Durham County for 1970 is 19.0 and for England and Wales 18.0.

The actual numbers of deaths for the past 10 years are:—

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|----|---------|-----|---|
| 1961 | ... | ... | 11 | 1966... | ... | 8 |
| 1962 | ... | ... | 10 | 1967... | ... | 4 |
| 1963 | ... | ... | 14 | 1968... | ... | 5 |
| 1964 | ... | ... | 3 | 1969... | ... | 5 |
| 1965 | ... | ... | 7 | 1970... | ... | 6 |

Of the six children who died before reaching one year of age, 3 were less than four weeks old. The neo-natal mortality rate is 13 compared with 12 for England and Wales and 13 for Durham County.

The stillbirth rate (4.8) is below the rate for England and Wales (13.0) and the rate for Durham County (13.0).

The perinatal mortality rate is 16.9 compared with 23 for England and Wales and 25 for County Durham.

Table II shows comparative rates.

Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths during the year attributable to maternal causes.

The Maternal Mortality rate for County Durham for 1970 is 0.15 and for England and Wales 0.18.

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1970 AND PREVIOUS YEARS
COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

| YEARS | | Birth Rate per 1,000 population | | | Death Rate per 1,000 population | | | Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| | | Spennymoor UDC | England & Wales | Durham Co. | Spennymoor UDC | England & Wales | Durham Co. | Spennymoor UDC | England & Wales | Durham Co. |
| 1960 | ... | 16.96 | 17.1 | 18.5 | 11.15 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 32.74 | 21.9 | 27.7 |
| 1961 | ... | 17.21 | 17.4 | 18.2 | 10.47 | 11.9 | 11.2 | 33.43 | 21.4 | 23.4 |
| 1962 | ... | 16.23 | 18.0 | 18.6 | 10.52 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 31.74 | 20.7 | 26.0 |
| 1963 | ... | 17.44 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 15.23 | 12.2 | 11.6 | 52.06 | 20.9 | 22.5 |
| 1964 | ... | 15.56 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 14.15 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 12.56 | 20.0 | 22.9 |
| 1965 | ... | 14.72 | 18.1 | 18.1 | 12.78 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 31.13 | 19.0 | 20.6 |
| 1966 | ... | 14.47 | 17.7 | 17.3 | 14.58 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 36.38 | 19.0 | 21.0 |
| 1967 | ... | 14.07 | 17.2 | 17.0 | 13.11 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 15.57 | 18.8 | 20.7 |
| 1968 | ... | 13.53 | 16.9 | 16.1 | 15.12 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 20.0 | 18.3 | 20.0 |
| 1969 | ... | 12.70 | 16.3 | 15.5 | 14.60 | 11.9 | 12.1 | 22.0 | 18.0 | 16.0 |
| Mean for 10 years 1960-1969... | | 15.3 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 13.12 | 11.7 | 11.4 | 28.76 | 19.8 | 22.1 |
| 1970 | ... | 15.3 | 16.0 | 15.6 | 15.9 | 11.7 | 11.8 | 25.4 | 18.0 | 19.0 |

TABLE II
TABLE COMPARING PERINATAL RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND OF DURHAM
COUNTY WITH THOSE OF SPENNYMOOR OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

| Years. | Spennymoor U.D.C. | England and Wales | Durham County |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1960 | 45.9 | 32.9 | 40.1 |
| 1961 | 23.8 | 32.2 | 35.7 |
| 1962 | 22.2 | 30.8 | 35.7 |
| 1963 | 44.0 | 29.3 | 32.4 |
| 1964 | 40.6 | 28.2 | 33.5 |
| 1965 | 64.8 | 26.9 | 30.7 |
| 1966 | 22.4 | 26.3 | 28.6 |
| 1967 | 15.3 | 25.4 | 26.6 |
| 1968 | 27.9 | 25.0 | 25.9 |
| 1969 | 38.0 | 23.0 | 26.0 |
| Mean for 10 years 1960-1969 | 34.5 | 28.0 | 31.5 |
| 1970 | 16.9 | 23.0 | 25.0 |

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1970.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | Total | Male | Female |
|---|-------|------|--------|
| ALL CAUSES | 245 | 128 | 117 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 2 | 2 | — |
| Meningococcal Infection | 1 | 1 | — |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx | 1 | 1 | — |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | 5 | — | 5 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | 3 | — | 3 |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Other Endocrine etc., Diseases | 2 | — | 2 |
| Anaemias | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Meningitis | 1 | 1 | — |
| Multiple Sclerosis | 1 | 1 | — |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. | 1 | — | 1 |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Hypertensive Disease | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | 56 | 30 | 26 |
| Other Forms of Heart Disease | 13 | 4 | 9 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 34 | 16 | 18 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| Influenza | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | 21 | 17 | 4 |
| Peptic Ulcer... .. | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | 1 | — | 1 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congenital Anomalies | 1 | — | 1 |
| Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. | 2 | 2 | — |
| Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality | 1 | 1 | — |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| All other accidents | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries | 1 | — | 1 |

TABLE IV
DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

| | -1 | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75 & over | Total |
|----------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-------|
| Males | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 24 | 35 | 40 | 128 |
| Females | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 4 | 18 | 34 | 58 | 117 |
| TOTAL | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 42 | 69 | 98 | 245 |

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (i) Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) County Analyst, County Hall, Durham.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Durham County Executive Council, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham.

Seven medical practitioners in general practice reside within the district.

3. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Newcastle Regional Hospital Board,

Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.

Durham Hospital Management Committee,
Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee,
General Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

(a) *General.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
- (iii) St. Margaret's Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
- (iv) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Princes Street Maternity Home, Bishop Auckland.
- (iii) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Highfield Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation (Emergency Fever Reserve).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

- (i) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
- (ii) Chest Clinic, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
(Static Mass Radiography unit open to general public daily.)
- (iii) Mass miniature Radiography Unit, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(e) *Mental.*

(i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield.

(ii) Binchester Whins Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

(f) *Venereal Disease Clinic.*

General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

4. HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) *School Health Service.*

There are 17 schools in the District comprising 3 secondary, 13 primary and a day school for handicapped children. There is one Central Kitchen of the Schools Meal service. Most schools now have their own kitchens attached.

(b) *Ambulance Service.*

The District is served from the ambulance depot at Bishop Auckland and from the Ambulance Headquarters at Framwellgate Moor, Durham.

The figures below show work done by Bishop Auckland Ambulance Depot:—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Number of persons who used the service | 28,327 |
| Number of stretcher cases | 7,270 |
| Number of sitting cases | 21,057 |
| Mileage travelled | 206,133 |

(c) *Health Visiting.*

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| No of Health Visitors covering the district | ... | 3 |
|---|-----|---|

(d) *Home Nursing.*

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| No. of Nurses and District Nurse Midwives | ... | 2 |
|---|-----|---|

Visits by District Nurses—

| | Cases. | Visits. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| (a) Medical cases | 421 | 6,640 |
| (b) Surgical cases | 148 | 2,924 |
| (c) Tuberculosis cases | 8 | 343 |
| (d) Maternal complications | — | — |

(e) *Domiciliary Midwifery.*

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of Midwives residing and practising inside the district | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| No. of Midwives residing outside the district | ... | | | | | 2 |
| Births attended by County midwives:— | | | | | | |
| Total births (live and still) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| Cases attended as Midwife and Nurse | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 125 |
| Hospital patients discharged home before 10th day | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 72 |
| Total cases attended | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 197 |

(f) *Domestic Help.*

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of Home Helps employed during year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 72 |
| Cases attended 1st January, 1970 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 168 |
| New cases during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| Cases terminated during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Cases attended 31st December, 1970 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 155 |

Breakdown of cases attended during the year:—

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Maternity (including expectant mothers) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (b) Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (c) Chronic sick (including aged and infirm) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 216 |
| (d) Others | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

(g) *Mental Health.*

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of persons registered as mentally subnormal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
| No. of persons under supervision in their own homes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
| No. of persons in hospitals for the mentally subnormal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |

(h) *Welfare Services.*

| | | Male | Female | Total |
|--|-----|------|--------|-------|
| No. of Blind persons on register | ... | 25 | 27 | 52 |
| No. of partially sighted persons on register | ... | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| No. of deaf and dumb persons on register | ... | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| No. of hard of hearing persons on register | ... | — | — | — |
| No. of physically handicapped persons on register | ... | 28 | 28 | 56 |
| No. of persons maintained in residential accommodation | ... | 13 | 17 | 30 |
| Persons on waiting list for residential accommodation at end of year | ... | 14 | 5 | 19 |

- (i) "Moor Grange" Grayson Road, Spennymoor.

The aged persons hostel built by Durham County Council in Grayson Road was opened at the beginning of 1970. The hostel caters for 45 old people in 33 single and 6 double bedrooms. One wing will be for 15 "very frail and disabled residents" and because these residents may need short term nursing from time to time the wing includes two sick rooms and a duty room and radio facilities are available in the bedrooms.

5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No statutory action was taken during the year involving Section 47 relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention.

6. CHIROPODY FOR THE AGED.

This was the sixth year of operation of the service, which is provided for females over 60 years of age and males over 65 years of age. The service is organised on a voluntary basis.

Three sessions are held each week, one on a Monday morning and two the following day. The sessions are held in the premises of Mr. Horner, Chiropodist, and domiciliary treatments are provided for those requiring them. The treatment is provided on an appointments system.

The number of persons treated was 365 and 938 treatments were given. Thirty-five persons had domiciliary treatment with a total of 89 treatments.

7. MEALS ON WHEELS.

The Meals on Wheels Service for the elderly people in the district, operated by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, continued to function throughout the year.

The meals are obtained from the factory canteen of Messrs. Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd., and served to 24 persons on Mondays and Wednesdays and to 36 persons on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. A charge of 5p per meal is made to each recipient. The costs of the service, including the running and maintenance costs of a delivery van, are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

8. LUNCHEON CLUB.

During 1968 the Women's Royal Voluntary Service introduced a new service for persons over 70 years of age in the form of a luncheon club and this club continued during the year.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week 20 lunches are served to elderly persons at the W.R.V.S. office in Parkwood Precinct, Spennymoor, a charge of 5p is made for the meal. Following lunch the participants are allowed to stay on the premises until 3.00 p.m. for general discussion or the playing of dominoes and cards.

The costs of the service are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

Section C

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table VIII shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 14 cases notified compared with 8 in the previous year. None was admitted to hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There was 9 case notified (1 in 1969). None was admitted to hospital and no deaths were assigned to this disease.

Table X shows the number of immunisations which took place during 1970.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no cases during the year.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued, at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, at clinic sessions held in these centres and in schools and by general practitioners in their surgeries under their own arrangements.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT YEAR ENDED, 31ST DECEMBER, 1970.

PRIMARY

| Age Group | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1963-66 | Others under 16 | Total |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|---------|--------------------|-------|
| No. immunised ... | 2 | 141 | 23 | 2 | 9 | — | 177 |

REINFORCING DOSES

| Age Group. | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1963-66 | Others under 16 | Total |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|---------|--------------------|-------|
| No. immunised ... | — | — | — | — | 124 | — | 124 |

MEASLES.

184 cases were notified, as against 65 last year. The cases were, in the main, mild in character and no deaths were attributable to the disease.

MEASLES VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1970.

| Age Group | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1963-66 | Others Under 16 | Total |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|---------|--------------------|-------|
| No. immunised ... | — | 55 | 51 | 12 | 9 | — | 127 |

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified in the district and Table X shows the number immunised in the district during the year.

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases.

The number vaccinated in the district during the year is shown on Table X.

DYSENTERY.

No cases were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.

There were no cases notified.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified was 2 as compared with 5 in the previous year. Of the two new cases notified 1 was of the pulmonary form. The table below shows the distribution of age groups.

There were 2 deaths from the disease of Tuberculosis notified in 1970.

| Age Group | | | | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 5—14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 15—24 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 1 |
| 25—44 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45—64 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 65 Upwards | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Age Unknown | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | 1 |

TABLE VI.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND DEATHS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.

| | New Cases | | Deaths | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary |
| 1960... .. | 9 | 1 | 4 | — |
| 1961... .. | 4 | — | 2 | — |
| 1962... .. | 7 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 1963... .. | 5 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 1964... .. | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| 1965... .. | — | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1966... .. | 6 | — | — | — |
| 1967... .. | 6 | 2 | — | 1 |
| 1968... .. | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| 1969... .. | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| Mean for ten years 1960-1969 ... | 4.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| 1970... .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis of school children over the age of eleven years attending schools in the district was continued during the year. The Heaf Multiple Puncture Skin Test was used. The following table shows the numbers involved.

TABLE VII.

B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

| No. tested | Positive Reactors | | Negative Reactors Given B.C.G. | | No. absent at time of reading | |
|------------|-------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 262 | 28 | 10.7 | 216 | 82.4 | 16 | 6.1 |

Two children were not vaccinated for medical reasons.

TABLE VIII
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED.

| | | | | | Number of cases notified | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|------|------|
| | | | | | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 8 | 14 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | 1 | 9 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis: | | | | | | | |
| Paralytic | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Non-Paralytic | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 | 65 | 184 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Smallpox | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Acute Encephalitis:— | | | | | | | |
| Infective | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Post Infective | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Acute Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Food Poisoning | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Infective Jaundice | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 3 |
| Tuberculosis:— | | | | | | | |
| Respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Meninges and CNS | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Other Forms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Leptospirosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Tetanus | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Malaria | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Plague | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Cholera | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Anthrax | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Typhus Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Relapsing Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Yellow Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 3 | — |

TABLE IX.
ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER, WHOOPING COUGH, MEASLES
AND POLIOMYELITIS

| Age. | Under 1 yr. | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-24 | 25 and over |
|----------------|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | — | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | — | — | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| Measles | ... | 20 | 24 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 56 | 1 | 2 |
| Poliomyelitis | | | | | | | | | |
| Paralytic | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Non-Paralytic | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Section D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year under review.

This Council has made a marked impact in removing areas of slum property. Town Centre redevelopment has, to a certain extent, revitalised Spennymoor, but one only has to make reference to old clearance order maps to convince oneself that previous clearance was not as thorough as it ought to have been. Small islands of property were excluded from Orders for numerous reasons and business premises were not cleared along with unfit dwellings.

Examples of outworn structures in the Spennymoor Ward include a block of property on the High Street where a façade of business premises conceals an unmade back street and dilapidated outbuildings. In the Tudhoe Ward conditions are not much better but at Cheapside phase 2 of the Shopping Precinct may result in the demolition of old shops at present boarded up.

The present Council are well aware of the need to adopt a comprehensive and realistic housing policy embracing slum clearance, repair, improvement and new construction. There is still, however, a considerable housing problem as almost two fifths of the houses in the town are over 70 years old and should be improved with the aid of grants. The Front Street, Tudhoe Colliery scheme is a good example of what can be done. Here 123 attractive stone-fronted dwellings have been modernised and similar schemes can be carried out in various parts of the town.

Inspection of meat at the wholesale slaughterhouse has presented very few problems during the year and some headway has been made on the design of a large modern abattoir fully equipped to be one of the most up-to-date in the country and acceptable to the European Economic Community Standards.

Public Cleansing duties have operated on similar lines to previous years and, although a proposed incentive bonus scheme for the men never got off the ground, we now have the "bare bones" of a scheme that can possibly be introduced at the appropriate time.

Numerous visits have been made to dwellings in the private sector to obtain the carrying out of repairs and there has subsequently been a falling off in the number of routine visits made to shops and offices.

In concluding I would like to quote from Mr. Bailes, a predecessor some fifty years ago, who wrote in one of his reports "When time and opportunity serves nothing but an attitude 'thorough' will suffice." For the present team of young Chief Officers the moment has arrived and in tackling all major problems simultaneously the Town Improvement Exercise is doing exactly as foreseen by Mr. Bailes.

My thanks are due to Chief Officers, past and present, to my Staff and to the Health Committee for their help and encouragement during the year.

N. ROBINSON,

C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) *Source.*

Water is supplied for the whole of the Urban District by the Durham County Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

The bulk of this supply is obtained from the Tunstall impounding reservoir and treatment works. The Tunstall Pressure Filter Plant was constructed in stages between 1937 and 1950 and now consists of 28 steel units with a total capacity of over 3 million gallons a day of filtered water.

Because of the need to find a substantial new source of supply the Durham County Water Board and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company joined forces some years ago to build a new reservoir, the Derwent Reservoir, in the neighbourhood of Edmondbyers. This reservoir, one of the largest in the country, has a capacity of 11,000 million gallons and is designed to produce a yield of 32 million gallons a day.

The clear filtered water from the treatment plant is discharged into a reservoir of 3 million gallons capacity.

Part of the Urban District, namely the village of Kirk Merrington, including North Close, is supplied with water from this reservoir.

(b) *Purity.*

Mr. D. G. Drummond, Chief Engineer of the Durham County Water Board, has kindly supplied the following information relating to the water supply.

Only natural fluoride is present in the water supplied to the Council's area and the content is 0.1—0.3 p.p.m. with the exception of Kirk Merrington which is 0.2—0.6 p.p.m.

The water has no plumbo-solvent effect.

The figures for the consumption in the Board's area are:—

Unmetered consumption amounts to 31.16 gallons per person per day (31.16 in 1969).

Metered consumption amounts to 16.09 gallons per person per day (16.09 in 1969).

A total of 47.25 gallons a day for each of the consumers in the area of supply.

There were 15 distribution samples taken for bacteriological testings and all were recorded as Class I.

Seven samples of water taken by the department from the mains supply, were examined; six were Class I, and one which was recorded as Class IV was reported to the County Water Board.

There are 6,874 properties supplied from the Board's mains and with the exception of caravans, there is no property known to the department without a direct supply of piped water.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of sanitary conveniences in the district at the end of 1970 was 8,438 and 25 ash-closets remain in the district as follows:—

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | 1 |
| Low Spennymoor Ward | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tudhoe Ward | ... | ... | 4 |
| Byers Green Ward | ... | ... | 18 |
| Merrington Ward | ... | ... | 1 |

There were no conversions carried out during the year.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage disposal plants at Tudhoe Mill and Byers Green continue to deal with the effluent from the area. The village of Kirk Merrington is drained to a pumping station for treatment by the Bishop Auckland U.D.C. sewage works at Binchester.

Work continued on the new sewage disposal works at Tudhoe Mill and they are expected to commence operation in 1971.

The new Sewage Treatment Works is designed to treat the flows from an ultimate population of 21,000 together with trade effluents from industrial premises in the district. The Works can easily be extended to deal with the flows from an additional population of 15,000 or an equivalent trade effluent discharge. The design dry weather flow is 1.895 million gallons per day of which 0.85 million gallons per day is trade effluent and 0.2 million gallons per day is infiltration water.

At the Sewage Treatment Works the combined flow of domestic sewage and trade effluent will be passed through two comminutors, which shred solid materials in the flow. Flows in excess of 6 x dry weather flow will then be passed over storm overflow weirs and discharged to the Valley Burn without further treatment. The remaining flow will be passed through two detritors where in-organic particles, such as grit, are removed. Flows in excess of 3 x dry weather flow will then be passed over weirs and discharged to stormwater tanks, where sludge will settle out after which the effluent will be passed direct to the Valley Burn. The existing primary sedimentation tanks are being converted to stormwater tanks.

All flows up to 3 x dry weather flow will be passed to three circular sedimentation tanks having a total capacity of 789,000 gallons. These tanks are each 70 ft. diameter with a side wall depth of 7 ft. and a floor

slope of 15 degrees towards the central sludge hopper. The sludge is swept into the hopper by bridge type mechanical scrapers and will be discharged under hydrostatic head to the sludge pumping station. Scum is removed automatically from the surface of the tanks by the scrapers.

The settled sewage will be discharged to three rows of aeration tanks of total capacity 710,000 gallons, where the biological stage of the treatment takes place. Each row contains four 28' 0" square pockets, the average depth being 13' 6".

The effluent from the aeration tanks will pass to three circular final settlement tanks having a total capacity of 474,000 gallons. These tanks are each 55 ft. diameter with a side wall depth of 6 ft. and a floor slope of 30 degrees towards the central hopper. The tanks will also be equipped with mechanical scrapers to assist in the removal of sludge. The sludge will be discharged under hydrostatic head to the returned activated sludge pumping station and the major part will be returned to the aeration tanks. The surplus activated sludge will be discharged to the sludge pumping station and subsequently pumped back to the primary sedimentation tanks.

The final effluent will be discharged through a 30 inch diameter outfall pipe to the Valley Burn.

At regular intervals sludge will be withdrawn from the primary sedimentation tanks and discharged hydrostatically to storage chambers at the sludge and topwater pumping station. The sludge will be pumped to a mixing chamber where conditioning chemicals will be added before being passed to two 26' 0" diameter conditioning tanks where it will be slowly stirred to ensure a uniform mixing. The conditioned sludge will then be pumped into four presses installed on the first floor of the press house where the moisture content of the sludge will be reduced by pressure from about 97% to about 65%. The filtrate from the sludge will be pumped back to the primary sedimentation tanks for re-treatment. The relatively dry sludge cake will drop on to a conveyor belt system under the presses and be discharged outside the building, pending disposal to off-site tips.

An Administration Building comprising Manager's Office, Laboratory, Mess Room, Showers and Toilets, Changing Room and Garage are also to be provided.

4. SLUM CLEARANCE.

The District Council have demolished more than 1,500 sub-standard properties and built over 2,600 houses since 1945.

Slum clearance is almost complete at Low Spennymoor and careful treatment is now needed in the Half Moon Lane Area to "round off" this area. Only limited clearance of the remaining property is envisaged.

In the Spennymoor ward the "hard core" of the problem lies in the area of old industrial housing immediately "above the Bridge" (which is still standing but shortly to disappear with the new through road). The houses are generally outworn, there is a very poor general environment and traffic hazards exist. Fast becoming a "twilight area", should nothing be done, it is encouraging to find that owners are anxious and willing to improve these properties.

(a) *Clearance Areas.*

During the year one clearance area was represented to the Council for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order and it was subsequently transmitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the area was the Duke Street and Dean Road Clearance Area and consisted of 40 properties.

(b) *Individual Unfit Houses.*

During the year Orders were made in respect of the following properties:—

| <i>Property.</i> | <i>Order.</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| 60, Durham Street, Middlestone Moor ... | Demolition. |
| 10, Edward Street, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 1, Belvoir Cottages, Merrington Lane ... | Closing. |
| Flats 1 and 2, Greenfield Villa, Byers Green ... | Closing. |
| 70, Front Street, Merrington Lane ... | Demolition. |
| 2, Rosa Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing. |
| 1 and 3, Stratton Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing. |
| 17, Gerard Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing. |
| 8, Jackson Street, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 40, King James Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing. |
| 7 and 8, West View, Kirk Merrington ... | Demolition. |
| 12, Edward Street, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 5, North Street, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| Nos. 77 to 82, Half Moon Lane, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 1, 2 and 3, Green Lane, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 48a, 49a and 50a, Whitworth Terrace, Spennymoor ... | Closing. |
| 12, Stratton Street, Spennymoor ... | Demolition. |
| 10, Front Street, Merrington Lane ... | Closing to Demolition. |
| 16, Brook Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing to Demolition. |
| 8 and 9, Clarence Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing to Demolition. |
| 4, Vyner Street, Spennymoor ... | Closing to Demolition. |

Thirty-four Individual Unfit Houses were dealt with and Orders made as follows:—

11 Closing Orders; 23 Demolition Orders.

A total of 166 families were rehoused from unfit houses during the year and 190 properties were demolished.

5. COUNCIL HOUSES.

The number of Council houses erected during the pre-war period, 1936 to 1938 is 74 and 280 houses were erected by the North Eastern Housing Association during that period.

During the post-war period 1945 to 1970 inclusive 2,624 houses have been erected by the Council and 222 by the North Eastern Housing Association. In addition, 150 Board of Trade houses, now Council-owned and 191 various properties owned by the Council give an effective housing accommodation of 3,556.

The following table shows the situation of Council-owned properties:—

| <i>Situation.</i> | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| St. Paul's Gardens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 |
| Park Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 242 |
| Middlestone Moor Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 659 |
| George Street Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |
| Tudhoe Moor Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186 |
| York Hill Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 395 |
| Kirk Merrington Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| Byers Green Estate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 139 |
| Front Street, Tudhoe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123 |
| Hartley/South Terraces | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Chestnut Avenue | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Bessemer Park | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 950* |
| Various Sundry properties | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | 3,054 |

*Final number to be 1,009

NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSES AND FLATS COMPLETED DURING 1970.

| Housing Site | 1 bedroom | 2 bed-rooms | 3 or more bedrooms | Totals |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|--------|
| Bessemer Park | 84 | — | 515 | 599 |
| Totals | 84 | — | 515 | 599 |

6. RENT ACT, 1957—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

No applications were received for the issue of certificates of disrepair.

7. UNMADE STREETS.

The work in connection with the making up of unmade streets is carried out by the Surveyor's Department and during 1970 2 streets were completed as compared with one during 1969.

8. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

9. FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

| PREMISES (1) | No. on Register (2) | Number of | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Inspections (3) | Written Notices (4) | Occupiers Prosecuted (5) |
| Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 36 | 21 | 3 | — |

Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects were discovered at the premises on two, three or more occasions they are counted as two, three or more 'cases')

| Particulars (1) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6) |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector (4) | By H.M. Inspector (5) | |
| Sanitary Conveniences ... (S.7) | | | | | |
| Unsuitable or defective ... | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — |

Four persons were notified as outworkers.

| Nature of work | Section 133 | | | Section 134 | | |
|-----------------|---|---|--|--|----------------|--------------|
| | No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to provide lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing Apparel | 4 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

10. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

(a) The following gives details of the registered premises in the Urban District and shows the number of persons employed.

| | Registered Premises | Persons Employed |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Offices ... | 34 | 631 |
| Shops ... | 67 | 393 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ... | 3 | 26 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ... | 18 | 118 |
| Fuel Storage Depots ... | 2 | 14 |

(b) During the year numerous visits were made to enforce the provisions of the Act and to give advice where necessary. The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions found to exist under the Act:—

| Section | | | | | | Number of contraventions found |
|---------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | Cleanliness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| 5 | Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 6 | Temperature | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 7 | Ventilation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| 8 | Lighting | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| 9 | Sanitary Conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| 10 | Washing facilities | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| 12 | Clothing accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 13 | Sitting facilities | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 16 | Floors, passage and stairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| 24 | First Aid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Total | | | | | | 56 |

(c) During the year eight accidents were reported involving employees in registered premises, all were minor accidents and were not attributable to any breach of the Act.

11. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Since 1956 the Council has been totally inactive in creating Smoke Control Areas due to a Ministry request that we formulate a programme for the whole Urban District.

The acute effects of air pollution give rise to grave health problems especially to the aged and very young. One can clearly observe a smoke drift from domestic chimneys which is emitted at low levels to realise that we do have a problem in Spennymoor and, when time and opportunity present themselves, domestic appliances incapable of burning smokeless fuels should be converted with the aid of Ministry grant so that the benefit of this is felt throughout the town.

12. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Meat Inspection.*

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all carcasses and offal of animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected and the carcasses marked with an approved stamp.

There were two licensed slaughterhouses operating in the area during the year, one operating only twice weekly, while the other, a meat wholesale business, required the constant attendance of the Council's Meat Inspector.

Table XI shows the numbers of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

(b) Representations were made to the Urban District Councils Association in order that the existing legislation concerning the admission of diseased animals to slaughterhouses should be strengthened.

The slaughter of fit animals on account of accident or injury is fully justifiable on economic and humane grounds but it was felt that animals suffering from a long standing disorder or some febrile condition, in other words sick or dying animals, should under no circumstances be sent into a slaughterhouse by a Farmer in order to attempt to salvage the carcass.

As the law stands under Regulation 4 of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 there is nothing to prevent such a situation arising. Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 information is required for the submission of a certificate by a Veterinary Surgeon giving, amongst other things information concerning an animal carcass:—

- (a) Whether the animal was suffering from any disease; and
- (b) Particulars of any drugs administered.

There would appear to be anomaly existing here as a slaughterhouse occupier who, in good faith, accepts a live animal without a Veterinary Surgeon's certificate may well be endangering other meat in the slaughterhouse by possible contamination and this practice also places the slaughtermen who are handling the dressing of such animals at risk.

I was called out in February to the slaughterhouse in response to a telephone call that a beast had been brought in for emergency slaughter on the advice of a Veterinary Surgeon. Post Mortem examination of the animal revealed a case of septic metritis accompanied by pleurisy and peritonitis and adhesion of internal organs. Judging from the amount of foul smelling pus, congested organs and fevered flesh, this condition had not come on overnight. The Vet's note which was received the following day was absolutely non-committal. There was no mention of diagnosis, or whether the animal had received treatment or had been administered drugs.

Photographs taken of the animal's condition were submitted to the Council for examination as evidence that this type of animal should never have been anywhere near a wholesale slaughterhouse.

This was another instance of a sick animal being sent in for emergency slaughter, with incomplete information being furnished on the animal's condition.

TABLE XI

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

| | Cattle excl. Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total. |
|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|--------|
| Number killed | 3714 | 1322 | 47 | 21968 | 4783 | 31834 |
| Carcases inspected | 3714 | 1322 | 47 | 21968 | 4783 | 31834 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | 5 | 11 | 12 | 34 | 26 | 88 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 1158 | 687 | 12 | 4696 | 1325 | 7878 |
| Weight of carcasses/parts condemned (in lbs.) | 12166 | 12474 | 602 | 9451 | 6576 | 41269 |
| Percentage of carcasses inspected condemned in part or whole ... | 31·9 | 52·8 | 51·1 | 21·5 | 28·2 | 25·0 |
| <i>Tuberculosis only:</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | — | — | — | — | 8 | 8 |
| Weight of carcasses/parts condemned (in lbs.) | — | — | — | — | 252 | 252 |
| Percentage of carcasses inspected condemned in part or whole ... | — | — | — | — | ·19 | ·025 |
| <i>Cysticerci:</i> | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 12 | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Carcases submitted to refrigeration | 12 | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Weight of carcasses/parts condemned (in lbs.) | 720 | — | — | — | — | 720 |

Total weights of carcasses and offal condemned were as follows:—

Tuberculosis 252 lbs.

Other Causes 41,989 lbs.

Meat Inspection charges amounted to £1,384·59

(c) *Pre-war and Post-war slaughtering.*

The following table gives an indication of the increase in slaughtering which has taken place in the district:—

| | | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|------|-----|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1937 | ... | 784 | 176 | 15 | 450 | 480 | 1,905 |
| 1938 | ... | 828 | 240 | 12 | 252 | 420 | 1,752 |
| 1955 | ... | 1,887 | 203 | 43 | 4,935 | 2,221 | 9,289 |
| 1961 | ... | 3,909 | 525 | 45 | 10,180 | 3,033 | 17,692 |
| 1962 | ... | 3,594 | 874 | 48 | 12,455 | 3,223 | 20,194 |
| 1963 | ... | 3,079 | 1,293 | 97 | 10,682 | 4,158 | 19,309 |
| 1964 | ... | 2,518 | 1,234 | 97 | 11,038 | 3,660 | 18,547 |
| 1965 | ... | 2,411 | 671 | 63 | 10,757 | 4,274 | 18,176 |
| 1966 | ... | 2,615 | 593 | 61 | 14,306 | 4,480 | 22,055 |
| 1967 | ... | 3,264 | 543 | 43 | 16,741 | 3,181 | 23,772 |
| 1968 | ... | 3,815 | 352 | 40 | 19,345 | 3,648 | 27,200 |
| 1969 | ... | 3,876 | 742 | 64 | 20,296 | 4,724 | 29,702 |
| 1970 | ... | 3,714 | 1,322 | 47 | 21,968 | 4,783 | 31,834 |

(d) *Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.*

Returns received from the two local knacker yards of animals received into their premises during the year and slaughtered for other than human consumption are given below:—

| | | | | Horses | | Ponies | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|--------|------|
| 1970 | | | | Live | Dead | Live | Dead |
| January | ... | ... | ... | — | 5 | — | 6 |
| February | ... | ... | ... | — | 4 | — | 5 |
| March | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 10 | — | 5 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 10 | — | 3 |
| May | ... | ... | ... | — | 11 | 1 | 8 |
| June | ... | ... | ... | — | 5 | — | 7 |
| July | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — | 3 |
| August | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| September | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | — | 7 |
| October | ... | ... | ... | — | 7 | — | 5 |
| November | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| December | ... | ... | ... | — | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Totals ... | | | | 11 | 72 | 4 | 63 |

(e) *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.*

There were 15 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

(f) Food Inspection.

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows:—

| | | | | lbs. | ozs. |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Canned Meats | ... | ... | ... | 1005 | — |
| Other Canned Foods | ... | ... | ... | 597 | — |
| Other Foods | ... | ... | ... | 537 | — |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 2139 | — |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

(g) Disposal of Condemned Food.

Carcases of animals condemned are sent to a processor at Darlington. Small quantities of unfit food are buried in the Council Refuse Tip.

(h) Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year two premises were registered under Section 16 of the Act which states:—

“No Premises shall be used for:—

(a) The sale, or the manufacture for the purpose of sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale, or

(b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale,

unless they are registered under this section for that purpose by the local authority”.

A total of 55 premises are registered under this section. 35 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and three premises in the district are used for the manufacture of ice-cream. 61 Samples of ice cream submitted to the Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham, for bacteriological examination, provided the following results.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|
| Grade I | ... | ... | 19 |
| Grade II | ... | ... | 9 |
| Grade III | ... | ... | 5 |
| Grade IV | ... | ... | 28 |

A number of samples falling within Grade IV were found to be due to anthracoid bacilli and spores, which are thermophilic and non-pathogenic.

(i) Bakehouses.

There are 4 bakehouses in the area.

(j) Fish Shops.

Thirteen premises are in use in the area as fish shops.

(k) Milk Supply.

The County Council are responsible for the issue of milk licences and the County Health Inspectors regularly take samples of milk and consequently no sampling has been done by this authority.

The following summary shows the results of the testing of samples taken in this area:—

99 samples were tested.

96 were satisfactory; 3 failed the mythelene blue test.

(l) Brucella Abortus.

No routine sampling is done by this Authority because of the close liaison with the County Health Inspector (as mentioned in the previous paragraph) but where *Brucella* is suspected, joint action will be taken.

(m) The liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(n) Poultry Processing Premises.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

(o) Food Complaints.

Investigations were made in respect of the following complaints concerning food which contained foreign matter:—

(1) Paper in Irish Stew.

A tin of Irish Stew manufactured by a national company was found to contain what appeared to be a piece of cloth label from a sheep carcase. Correspondence with the company resulted in a tightening up on their control and inspection checks, particularly with regard to the inspection of raw meat.

(2) Insect in Tomatoes.

A tin of tomatoes was found, upon opening, to contain an insect. The coding systems used by the retailers could not be broken and the point of origin was indeterminable.

(3) Brush Fibres in Meal.

A complaint was received concerning what appeared to be an insect contained in a Chinese meal. Examination by the County Analyst showed that the sample submitted contained a small bundle of fibres arranged in the form of a tuft from a brush. After a full report, the Council decided that no action be taken.

(4) Maggot in Cake.

A small chocolate cake bought from a local baker was found to contain a live maggot in the walnut decoration. Upon investigation at the bakery a consignment of walnuts was found to be infested with Mill Moth Larvae and subsequently condemned.

(5) Bolt in Teacake.

A bolt was discovered in a teacake bought in a local grocery shop and manufactured by a wholesale bakery. After considering all the circumstances of the case a warning letter was sent expressing the Council's concern and asking for all possible safeguards to be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

(6) Moth in Pasty.

A pasty bought in a local factory canteen was found upon being broken open to contain a moth baked into the filling. The Health Committee recommended that legal proceedings be instituted against the bakery concerned.

13. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964.

During the year two certificates of registration were issued and one registration was not renewed. There are now 31 Scrap Metal Dealers registered under this Act; three of these have a scrap metal store in the area and 28 are itinerant collectors.

14. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During 1969 the Council asked for the assistance of the County Council Management Services Unit to carry out a preliminary survey of their Manual Staff with a view to the implementation of a work study based incentive bonus scheme. The results of the preliminary survey carried out by the Unit showed that it was feasible to introduce incentive schemes into all departments, but in order to achieve and maintain an increase in productivity and a reduction in unit costs the labour force in some sections would have to be run down; it was further recommended that any labour recruited before the installation of the proposed incentive schemes be employed on a casual basis.

At a meeting held in February when representatives of the Trade Union were present, it was agreed that an interim bonus requested by the men should be paid in advance of the long term scheme via the terms laid down in the National Joint Council Circular NM 194 (a) provided that there was shown to be:—

- (a) a reduction in unit cost, the payment to be recouped out of savings and to be of such an amount which would not prejudice the introduction of the long term scheme, and;
- (b) a long term solution which would be placed under active consideration.

On 28th April, 1970, Chief Officers and the Finance Committee Chairman visited the Head Office of the N.J.C. in London to discuss the Council's application to pay an interim award to all the Council's Manual Workers, via Short Term implementation Manual. Prior to this meeting the Council's Officers had prepared an outline cost reduction plan, and for this purpose the employees were divided into four occupational groups. The proposals submitted satisfied the necessary criteria for the implementation of an interim award from 10th May, with the proviso that the necessary manpower reductions had taken place by that date—the necessary reduction in establishment in the Health Department was achieved by terminating the services of two Casual employees.

Reversion to a 40 hour working week together with a reduction in staff resulted in the sections becoming rather disorganised. The men previously enjoyed a non-monetary concession to work hard and when capable of no more productive work to finish early. It was up to the men to prove to the Work Study Officers that they had sufficient work to justify the payment of maximum bonus, and the onus rested with the Work Study Officer to introduce a satisfactory system of refuse collection which would bring about a reduction in unit cost.

The level of work performance on refuse collection in Spennymoor is fairly high compared with the national average of bins collected per man per day, and in my opinion there is little slack to take up.

(a) *Trade Refuse and Salvage.*

During the year 124·15 tons of fibreboard were collected, baled and subsequently sold to the Paper Mills and £1,480 was realised.

(b) *Staff.*

To carry out the work of the Department, 18 workmen are employed as follows:—

- 1 Foreman (acts as Foreman for Surveyor's Department also)
- 1 Bulldozer Driver/Tip Attendant.
- 1 Salvage Wagon Driver/Collector.

- 1 Salvage Collector/Baler Operator.
- 3 Drivers.
- 11 Fillers.

The help of additional, temporary personnel is enlisted to cover annual holidays and sickness.

(c) *Vehicles.*

Four vehicles are used in the collection of refuse:—

- 2 Karrier Dual Tippers (18 cubic yard capacity).
- 1 Karrier Dual Tipper (12 cubic yard capacity).
- 1 Derby Salvage Vehicle (10 cubic yard capacity).

The large wagons have a crew of five men including Driver and the smaller wagon a crew of three Fillers and a Driver.

(d) *Sickness Benefit Scheme.*

The total number of man hours lost due to sickness during the year from January to December was 5,141 and the cost involved was £902.24

15. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year a full time Pests Officer was appointed.

The following is a summary of rodent control work carried out during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1970 as per Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Form I.R. 31:—

| | | Type of Property. | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|
| | | Non-Agricultural. | Agricultural. |
| <i>Properties other than sewers.</i> | | | |
| 1. | Number of properties in district ... | 7,503 | 47 |
| 2. | (a) total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 130 | 6 |
| | (b) number infested by (i) Rats ... | 75 | 6 |
| | (ii) Mice ... | 28 | 1 |
| 3. | (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 47 | 15 |
| | (b) Number infested by (i) Rats ... | 34 | 11 |
| | (ii) Mice ... | 3 | 1 |

16. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY SUBMITTED TO DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR, 1970.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

(a) *Formal Action.*

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action | ... | ... | 190 |
| (ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action | ... | ... | 14 |
| (iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed | ... | — | |
| (iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation | ... | — | |

(b) *Informal Action.*

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| (i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above | ... | 62 |
|---|-----|----|

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during the year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| (a) As a result of informal action | ... | 47 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice | ... | — |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | — |

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

| | | | | | Number of separate houses | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | Discretionary Grant | Standard Grant |
| (a) | Applications submitted to Council during the year | ... | ... | ... | 71 | 7 |
| (b) | Applications rejected by Council during the year | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| (c) | Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme | ... | ... | | 659 | 146 |
| (d) | Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme | ... | ... | ... | 603 | 141 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Ashpit-privies converted into water-closets | ... | ... | — |
| Ash-closets converted into water-closets | ... | ... | — |
| Total number of water-closets in District | ... | ... | 8,438 |
| Total number of ash-closets in District | ... | ... | 25 |
| Number of ashpit-privies in District | ... | ... | — |

| New houses and flats completed during the year | With State Assistance | Unaided | Total |
|--|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| (a) By local authority | 599 | — | 599 |
| (b) By any other Housing Authority ... | — | — | — |
| (c) By private persons | — | 58 | 58 |

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN DISTRICT FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF
NUMBERS AND RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL HEREDITAMENTS ASSESSED IN
VALUATION LIST 1ST APRIL, 1970.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Dwellinghouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6230 |
| Shops with Dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| Shops without Dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 173 |
| Offices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Public Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Hotels & Boarding Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Restaurants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Warehouses, Stores & Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Garages & Filling Stations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| Lock up Garages | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 661 |
| Advertising Stations and signs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Industrial | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Public Utility—Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Electricity | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Coal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Post Office | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Sports & Recreation Grounds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Other places of recreation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Social clubs and community halls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Libraries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Crown Properties | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Hospitals, Clinics | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Cemeteries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sewage Disposal Works | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Municipal Offices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Others (not classified) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Agricultural Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |

7,550
